

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. **(Currently Amended)** A word prediction method, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a sentence structure consisting of multiple words, including a target word to be predicted;

employing said sentence structure to select a word and/or a word sequence that has a modification relationship with said target word to be predicted;

predicting said target word based only on said word and/or said word sequence that is selected; and

returning to a user said predicted target word.

2. **(Original)** The word prediction method according to claim 1, wherein said word and/or said word sequence constitute a partial analysis tree structure in said sentence structure.

3. **(Original)** The word prediction method according to claim 1, wherein, when multiple words and/or word sequences are selected, word prediction is performed based on said words and/or word sequences that are selected.

4. **(Currently Amended)** A word prediction method, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a modification of a word to be predicted by a different word and/or word sequence; and

predicting said word using only said different word and/or word sequence that is specified; and

returning to a user said predicted target word.

5. **(Original)** The word prediction method according to claim 4, wherein said modification includes a modification direction, and said word to be predicted modifies a prior word.

6. **(Original)** The word prediction method according to claim 4, wherein, when multiple modifications are established between said word to be predicted and said different word and/or word sequence, a word is predicted for each of said modifications.

7. **(Withdrawn)** A speech recognition method, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying the structure of a phrase from the beginning of a sentence to the j-th word ($j=0, 1, 2, \dots$);

employing a sentence structure up to said j-th word to specify one or multiple partial analysis trees modifying the (j+1)th word;

predicting said (j+1)th word based on said one or multiple partial analysis trees;

obtaining a sentence for a phrase including said predicted (j+1)th word and the probability value for said sentence structure; and

performing the above steps up to the last word of said sentence, and selecting, as speech recognition results, a sentence structure and a word sequence having maximum probability values.

8. (Currently Amended) A word prediction apparatus comprising:

a storer which stores a dictionary wherein text data that have been learned is written;

a predictor which employs a structure of a sentence consisting of multiple words, including a word to be predicted, to select a word and/or a word sequence that has a modification relationship with said word to be predicted, and which predicts said word based only on said word and/or said word sequence that is selected; and

an arrangement which returns said predicted word to a user.

9. (Currently Amended) A word prediction apparatus comprising:

a storer which stores a dictionary wherein text data that have been learned is written;

a predictor which selects a word and/or a word sequence that has a modification relationship with a word to be predicted, and which predicts said word based only on said word and/or said word sequence that is selected; and

an arrangement which returns said predicted word to a user.

10. **(Original)** The word prediction apparatus according to claim 9, wherein, for a predetermined word or word sequence based on said text data, a frequency where at another predetermined word appears is stored in said dictionary.

11. **(Original)** The word prediction apparatus according to claim 10, wherein said predictor calculates a probability value for a word sequence including a word that is predicted based on said frequency.

12. **(Original)** The word prediction apparatus according to claim 11, wherein said predictor selects, as a prediction result, a word sequence having the maximum probability value.

13. **(Withdrawn)** A speech recognition apparatus comprising:

an acoustic processor which converts an input analog speech signal into a digital signal;

a first storer which stores an acoustic model that has learned a feature of speech;

a second storer which stores a dictionary wherein an appearance frequency of a predetermined word relative to another predetermined word and/or word sequence is written; and

a recognizer which uses said acoustic model and said dictionary to calculate a probability value for said digital signal, and which recognizes a word having the maximum probability value as input speech, wherein said recognizer predicts a word to be predicted based on a structure of a sentence including said word, and employs said appearance frequency to calculate said probability value for said sentence, including said word that is predicted.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer system comprising:

a specifier which specifies a modification relationship between a word to be predicted and another word and/or word sequence, and which predicts said word by only employing said word and/or word sequence modifying said word; and

an arrangement which returns said predicted word to a user, and said modification relationship.

15. (Currently Amended) A storage medium, on which a computer readable program is stored, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer, that permits the computer to perform:

a first process for specifying a sentence structure consisting of multiple words, including a target word to be predicted;

a second process for employing said sentence structure to select a word and/or a word sequence that has a modification relationship with said target word to be predicted;

a third process for predicting said target word based only on said word and/or said word sequence that is selected; and

returning to a user said predicted target word.

16. **(Currently Amended)** A storage medium, on which a computer readable program is stored, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer, that permits the computer to perform:

a first process for specifying a modification relationship between a word to be predicted and a different word and/or word sequence;

a second process for predicting said word using only said different word and/or word sequence that is specified; and

returning to a user said predicted word.

17. **(Currently Amended)** A program transmission apparatus comprising:

a storer which stores a program, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer, permitting the computer to perform

a first process for specifying a sentence structure of a multiple word sentence, including a target word to be predicted,

a second process for employing said sentence structure to select a word and/or a word sequence that has a modification relationship with said target word to be predicted,

a third process for predicting said target word based only on said word and/or said word sequence that is selected;

a transmitter which reads said program from said storer and transmits said program; and

an arrangement which returns said predicted target word to a user.

18. (Currently Amended) A program transmission apparatus comprising:

a storer which stores a program tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by a computer, permitting the computer to perform

a first process for specifying a modification relationship between a word to be predicted and a different word and/or word sequence, and

a second process for predicting said word using only said different word and/or word sequence that is specified;

a transmitter which reads said program from said storer and transmits said program; and

an arrangement which returns said predicted word to a user.

19. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for word prediction, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a sentence structure consisting of multiple words, including a target word to be predicted;

employing said sentence structure to select a word and/or a word sequence that has a modification relationship with said target word to be predicted;

predicting said target word based only on said word and/or said word sequence that is selected; and

returning to a user said predicted target word.

20. **(Currently Amended)** A program storage device readable by computer, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the computer to perform method steps for word prediction, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying a modification of a word to be predicted by a different word and/or word sequence;

predicting said word using only said different word and/or word sequence that is specified; and

returning to a user said predicted word.

21. **(Withdrawn)** A program storage device readable by machine, tangibly embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform method steps for speech recognition, said method comprising the steps of:

specifying the structure of a phrase from the beginning of a sentence to the j-th word ($j=0, 1, 2, \dots$);

employing a sentence structure up to said j-th word to specify one or multiple partial analysis trees modifying the (j+1)th word;

predicting said (j+1)th word based on said one or multiple partial analysis trees;

obtaining a sentence for a phrase including said predicted (j+1)th word and the probability value for said sentence structure; and

performing the above steps up to the last word of said sentence, and selecting, as speech recognition results, a sentence structure and a word sequence having maximum probability values.

22. **(Previously Presented)** The word prediction method according to claim 1, wherein said returning to a user comprises displaying said predicted target word.

23. **(Previously Presented)** The word prediction apparatus according to claim 8, wherein said arrangement which returns said predicted word to a user comprises an external storage medium for storing said predicted word.